Cleaning of Rivers in Tamil Nadu

3873. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a plan from the Government of Tamil Nadu for cleaning of rivers and environmental improvement of cities in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Forest Land at Seelvasa of Dadra Nagar Haveli (U.T.)

3874. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Seelvasa of Dadra Nagar Haveli U.T. has more than 92.1 per cent of population belonging to scheduled tribes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the land of these tribals is covered under Forest Area; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the land is the only source of income of tribal people in this area, and they are the sole owner of this land from their last forth father heriditary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The Union Territory of Dadra Nagar Haveli, of which Seelvasa is the capital has, according to 1991 census, a population of 1,38,477 out of which 1,09,380 are Scheduled Tribes constituting 78.99% of the total population.

(b) and (c) 42.2% of the geographical area of the Union Territory is under forest cover. The tribals do not have exclusive ownership over the forest lands which are a State property. However, bulk of the population of the Union Territory including non tribals depend heavily on forests for timber and fuelwood and also as a source of earning wages through forestry activities for their livelihood. the tribals also enjoy exclusive rights for collection of Minor Forest produce free of cost as also other privileges in the forest area like collection of fuelwood, leaves and grass etc. for their domestic consumption.

National Forest Policy

3875. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the National Forest Policy, 1988, it was recommended that 33 per cent of the total geographical area of the country should be covered by forest;

(b) if so, what is the area under forest cover at present;

(c) whether present coverage is less than 33 per cent; and

(d) what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to increase forest coverage in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the State of Forest Report, 1991, the forest cover in the country is 6,39,182 Sq. km.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main reasons for the less forest cover are biotic pressure and diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. To increase the forest cover, a massive afforestation programme, Social and Farm forestry under the 20-Point Programme is pursued vigorously with the people's participation. During Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plan, an area of 46.50 lakh hectares and 88.85 lakh hectares respectively, have been afforested.

जल-प्रदूषण

3876. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह** : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार जल प्रदूषण पर काबू पाने में विफल रही है और इसी वजह से जल प्रदूषण को नहीं रोका जा सका है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 के अंतर्गत बहि:स्राव और उत्सर्जन की अधिकतम स्वीकार्य सीमा को कार्यान्वित करने के संबंध में किए गए प्रयासों का राज्यवार ब्यौरा क्या है; और